

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A content usage system, comprising:
an information terminal;
a content usage apparatus;
a settlement apparatus; and
a server apparatus operable-configured to transmit content usage information to the information terminal, the content usage information relating to usage of content;
the information terminal comprising:
a processor;
a reception unit operable-configured to receive, from the server apparatus, (i) the content usage information from the server apparatus including a usage right for the content and charge information showing a usage amount of the content, and (ii) an identifier that identifies a provider of the content;
a generation unit configured to generate, using the processor, settlement request information including the charge information and the identifier;
a transmission unit configured to transmit the generated settlement request information to a settlement apparatus of a communications enterprise that provides communication service to the information terminal;
a storage unit configured to store identification information that identifies an apparatus permitted to receive the content usage information from the information terminal;
a judgment unit configured to judge, using the processor, whether or not to transfer the content usage information to a content usage apparatus that is the request-source and to use the content by comparing the identification information stored in the storage unit with identification information that identifies the content usage apparatus;
and
a transfer unit configured to transfer the content usage information to the content usage apparatus in a case in which a result of the judgment by the judgment unit is affirmative;
a proxy settlement request transmission unit operable to transmit settlement

request information to a settlement apparatus of a communications enterprise that provides communication service to the information terminal, the settlement request information indicating a request for proxy settlement for the usage information; and

a content usage information output unit operable to output the received content usage information to the content usage apparatus that is to use the content; and

the content usage apparatus comprising:

a content obtaining unit operable configured to obtain the content;

a content usage information reception unit operable configured to receive the content usage information from the information terminal; and

a content usage unit operable configured to use the content in accordance with the usage information; and

the settlement apparatus comprising:

a settlement apparatus processor;

a reception unit operable configured to receive the settlement request information from the information terminal;

a proxy settlement unit operable to configured to, when proxy settlement relating to the received settlement request information is permitted, perform, using the settlement apparatus processor, proxy settlement for the content usage information for a content distribution server that distributes the content, in a case in which proxy settlement relating to the received settlement request information is permitted; and

a settlement unit operable to, when the proxy settlement is performed, configured to perform, using the settlement apparatus processor, settlement for both the communication service and the content usage information for the information terminal in a case in which the proxy settlement is performed.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Currently Amended) An information terminal for use with a content usage apparatus, and which transfers content usage information relating to usage of content, comprising:

a processor;

a reception unit operable-configured to receive, from an external server apparatus,

(i) the content usage information from an external server apparatus including a usage right for the content and charge information showing a usage amount of the content, and (ii) an identifier that identifies a provider of the content;

a generation unit configured to generate, using the processor, settlement request information including the charge information and the identifier;

a transmission unit configured to transmit the generated settlement request information to a settlement apparatus of a communications enterprise that provides communication service to the information terminal;

a storage unit configured to store identification information that identifies an apparatus permitted to receive the content usage information from the information terminal;

a judgment unit configured to judge, using the processor, whether or not to transfer the content usage information to a content usage apparatus that is the request-source and to use the content by comparing the identification information stored in the storage unit with identification information that identifies the content usage apparatus; and

a transfer unit to transfer the content usage information to the content usage apparatus in a case in which a result of the judgment by the judgment unit is affirmative.

an output unit operable to output the received content usage information to the content usage apparatus that is to use the content; and

a proxy settlement request transmission unit operable to transmit settlement request information to a settlement apparatus of a communications enterprise that provides communication service to the information terminal, the settlement request information indicating a request for proxy settlement for the usage information.

4. (Currently Amended) The information terminal of Claim 3, further comprising:

an electronic money storage unit that is tamper-resistant, which is a state of being unable to be read or tampered with from outside, and that is configured to store electronic money information therein;

a not-possible notification reception unit operable-configured to receive proxy settlement not-possible information from the settlement apparatus indicating that the

settlement apparatus has judged that proxy settlement is not possible; and
an electronic money settlement unit configured to perform, using the processor,
settlement for the content usage information with use of the electronic money information
stored in the storage unit in a case in which the not-possible notification reception unit
receives the proxy settlement not-possible information.

5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)
7. (Canceled)
8. (Currently Amended) The information terminal of Claim 7, whereinClaim 3, further comprising:

~~the output unit further comprises a permission reception sub-unit operable unit configured to receive, from the content usage apparatus, a signal indicating that transmission of the content usage information is permitted, and wherein~~

~~the output sub-unit outputs transfer unit transfers the content usage information to the content usage apparatus when in a case in which the result of the judgment by the judgment sub-unit-unit is affirmative and the permission reception sub-unit-unit has received the signal.~~
9. (Canceled).
10. (Currently Amended) The information terminal of Claim 8, further comprising:

~~a—an electronic money storage unit that is tamper-resistant, which is a state of being unable to be read or tampered with from outside, and which—that is operable configured to store electronic money information therein,~~

~~a not-possible notification reception unit operable-configured to receive proxy settlement not-possible information from the settlement apparatus indicating that the settlement apparatus has judged that proxy settlement is not possible; and~~

an electronic money settlement unit operable toconfigured to perform, using the processor, when the not possible notification reception unit receives not possible information, perform settlement of the content usage information with use of the electronic money information stored in the electronic money storage unit, in place of the processing by the transmission unit, in a case in which the not-possible notification reception unit receives the proxy settlement not-possible information.

11. (Currently Amended) The information terminal of Claim 3, wherein
the content usage information includes identification information of an apparatus to which transmission of the content usage information is permitted, and
the output transfer unit further comprises:
 - an identification information reception sub-unit operable configured to receive, from the content usage apparatus, usage apparatus identification information that identifies the content usage apparatus;
 - a judgment sub-unit operable configured to judge, using the processor, whether or not the received usage apparatus identification information matches the identification information included in the usage information; and
 - an output sub-unit operable configured to output the content usage information to the content usage apparatus when in a case in which a result of the judgment by the judgment sub-unit is affirmative.

12. (Currently Amended) A control method for controlling an information terminal that transfers content usage information relating to usage of content, wherein

the information terminal comprises:

a processor; and
a storage unit configured to store identification information that identifies an apparatus permitted to receive the content usage information,

the control method comprising:
a reception step of receiving, from an external server apparatus, (i) the content usage information from an external server apparatus including a usage right for the content and charge information showing a usage amount of the content, and (ii) an

identifier that identifies a provider of the content;
an output step of outputting the received content usage information to a usage apparatus that is to use the content; and
a generation step of generating, using the processor, settlement request information including the charge information and the identifier;
a transmission step of transmitting the generated settlement request information to a settlement apparatus of a communications enterprise that provides communication service to the information terminal, the settlement request information indicating a request for proxy settlement for the usage information;
a judgment step of judging, using the processor, whether or not to transfer the content usage information to a content usage apparatus that is the request-source and to use the content by comparing the identification information stored in the storage unit with identification information that identifies the content usage apparatus; and
a transfer step of transferring the content usage information to the content usage apparatus in a case in which a result of the judgment in the judgment step is affirmative.

13. (Canceled).

14. (Currently Amended) A non-transitory computer-readable recording medium on which is recorded a computer program to be used in an information terminal that transfers content usage information relating to usage of content, wherein
the information terminal comprises:
a processor; and
a storage unit configured to store identification information that identifies an apparatus permitted to receive the content usage information,
the computer program causing the information terminal to perform a method comprising:
a reception step of receiving, from an external server apparatus, (i) the content usage information from an external server apparatus including a usage right for the content and charge information showing a usage amount of the content, and (ii) an identifier that identifies a provider of the content;
an output step of outputting the received content usage information to a usage

apparatus that is to use the content; and

a generation step of generating, using the processor, settlement request information including the charge information and the identifier;

a transmission step of transmitting the generated settlement request information to a settlement apparatus of a communications enterprise that provides communication service to the information terminal, the settlement request information indicating a request for proxy settlement for the usage information;

a judgment step of judging, using the processor, whether or not to transfer the content usage information to a content usage apparatus that is the request-source and to use the content by comparing the identification information stored in the storage unit with identification information that identifies the content usage apparatus; and

a transfer step of transferring the content usage information to the content usage apparatus in a case in which a result of the judgment in the judgment step is affirmative.

15. (Currently Amended) The content usage system of Claim 1, further comprising:

a registration server that stores at least one identification information piece that identifies a content distribution server with which the proxy settlement is possible, and is operable configured to judge whether or not the proxy settlement is possible upon receiving a request from the settlement apparatus and to transmit a result of the judgment to the settlement apparatus, wherein

the transmission unit in the information terminal is operable configured to transmit identification information identifying the content distribution server that distributes the content by including the identification information in the settlement request information, and

the proxy settlement unit in the settlement apparatus is operable configured to transmit the identification information included in the settlement request information to the registration server and to request the registration server to judge whether or not the proxy settlement relating to the settlement request information is possible.

16. (Currently Amended) The content usage system of Claim 1, wherein

the reception unit in the information terminal is operable configured to receive the content usage information including permission identification information that identifies a

content usage apparatus capable of using the content usage information,

the output transfer unit in the information terminal is operable configured to output a content usage information transmission request including the permission identification information included in the content usage information received by the reception unit, and transmits to transmit the content usage information to the content usage apparatus in reply to the content usage information transmission request only when in a case in which permission for reception is notified by the content usage apparatus, and

the content usage information reception unit in the content usage apparatus is configured to check, upon receiving the content usage information transmission request from the information terminal, is operable to check whether (i) the permission identification information included in the received content usage information transmission request matches (ii) identification information that identifies the content usage apparatus, and to notify the information terminal of the permission for reception only when in a case in which (i) and (ii) match.

17. (Currently Amended) The content usage system of Claim 1, wherein

the content usage information reception unit in the content usage apparatus is operable configured to receive an identifier of the information terminal along with the content usage information, and to store the received content usage information in a storage area in correspondence with the identifier, and

the content usage unit in the content usage apparatus is operable configured to receive the identifier again from the information terminal when using the content, judge whether or not (i) the identifier stored in the storage area matches (ii) the received identifier, and to use the content only when in a case in which (i) and (ii) match.

18. (Currently Amended) The content usage system of Claim 1, wherein

the content usage apparatus further comprises:

a first valid device information storage unit operable configured to pre-store identification information that identifies an information terminal from which the content usage apparatus is capable of receiving the usage information,

the information terminal further comprises

a second valid device information storage unit ~~operable~~configured to pre-store identification information that identifies a content usage device apparatus to which the information terminal is capable of transmitting the usage information,

the content usage information output transfer unit in the information terminal is ~~operable~~configured to output a content usage information transmission request including identification information of the information terminal to the usage apparatus,

the content usage information reception unit in the content usage apparatus is configured to judge, upon receiving the content usage information transmission request from the information terminal, ~~is operable to judge~~ whether or not the identification information included in the content usage information transmission request is stored in the first valid device information storage, and to transmit a content usage information reception request including identification information of the content usage apparatus to the information terminal only when in a case in which the identification information included in the content usage information transmission request is stored in the first valid device information storage,

the content usage information output transfer unit in the information terminal is configured to judge, upon receiving the content usage information transmission request from the content usage apparatus, ~~is operable to judge~~ whether or not the identification information included in the content usage information reception request is stored in the second valid device information storage unit, and to transmit the content usage information to the content usage apparatus only when in a case in which the identification information included in the content usage information reception request is stored in the second valid device information storage unit.

19. (New) The information terminal of Claim 1, wherein

the reception unit further receives, from the settlement apparatus, an identifier that identifies a provider of the content not permitted to perform the proxy settlement, and stores the received identifier in the storage unit,

the information terminal further comprises an identifier judgment unit configured to judge, using the processor, whether or not the identifier received from the server apparatus matches the identifier stored in the storage unit, and

the transmission unit transmits the generated settlement request information to the settlement apparatus in a case in which a result of the judgment by the identifier judgment unit is

negative.